prevailing state of affairs in the National and Public Libraries and to consider ways and means of reforming, reorganising and modernising the Libraries in the country and also to infuse new life in the library movement. A few other groups were constituted as a result of the deliberations in the said National Meet to look into various aspects of the problem. No help was sought from the private entrepreneurs. However, it was decided to request the Members of Parliament to set apart Rs.15-20 lakh for Public Libraries in their constituencies out of the Members of Parliament Local Area Development fund (MPLAD) of Rs.2 crore.

Private participation in duty free shops at airports

1764. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) had invited proposals for private participation in the duty free business at the Indian airports;

(b) if so, the names of the airports where the duty free business is to be given to the private parties;

(c) the proposals received by the ITDC in response to its tenders;

(d) whether Government have examined these proposals and if so, details thereof; and

(e) how far the running of duty free shops by private parties would be more beneficial to Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ITDC had invited Technical bids through a global tender for logistics and retail support by associating leading International Duty Free Operators for its all Duty Free Shops divided in three regions *i.e.* Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.

(c) No proposals were received in response to the tender.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (c) above.